

Application No. 10/806,705
Amendment Dated April 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated November 1, 2005

Remarks

Claims 17 and 19-24 are pending.

Claims 17 and 19-24 stand rejected.

Claim 17 and 19 are amended.

Claims 25 - 27 have been added.

Claims 17 and 19-27 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph two of the Office Action, claim 19 is objected to because it depends from a cancelled claim. Applicants have amended the claim accordingly and respectfully request that this objections be withdrawn.

In paragraph four of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 17 and 19-24 because independent claim 17 contains an element that lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended the claim accordingly and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sharma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,331,906). Also, claim 19 is rejected as obvious over Sharma, claim 20 is rejected as obvious over Sharma in view of Wong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,208,444) and claims 21-24 are rejected as obvious over Sharma in view of Wong and Karasan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,878,177).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the examiner's contentions and submit the

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following remarks in response.

Independent claim 17 is directed to an optical cross-connect equipment for connecting transmission paths for optical signals. Among other elements the cross-connect equipment includes a second transmission apparatus having a first light source for outputting an optical signal of the first wavelength and a first wavelength multiplexer for multiplexing the optical signals having the wavelengths other than the first wavelength, which are output from the optical circuit, and the optical signal of the first wavelength, which is transmitted from the first light source.

Furthermore the second transmission apparatus includes a first optical amplifier for amplifying and outputting the optical signal from the optical circuit to the first wavelength multiplexer and an optical separation means for receiving the optical signal from the first light source, thereby outputting a part of the light signal received to the optical amplifier while outputting remaining thereof to the first wavelength multiplexer, where the first light source, receiving the electric signal output from the controller, converts the electric signal received into the optical signal of the first wavelength to be outputted therefrom.

Support for such amendments are found generally on pages 15-25 of the specification and figure 12, where the optical separation means refers to "coupler 15" of figure 12.

New claim 25 includes a second wavelength multiplexer in the second transmission apparatus ("wavelength multiplexer 12" in figure 12). New claim 26 recites the strength/intensity of the optical signal from the optical separation means (page 10 of the application as filed). New claim 27 includes a second optical amplifier, light source and wavelength multiplexer for the second transmission apparatus (amplifier is element 11 from figure 12, second light source is "pumping light source 95" in figure 12, and second multiplexer

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is wavelength multiplexer 12 from figure 12.

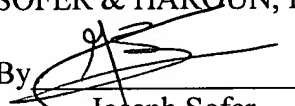
The cited prior art, namely Sharma, does not disclose such a structure for a second transmission apparatus. As such, Applicants request that the rejection of independent claim 17 be withdrawn and the rejection of claims 19-24 that depend therefrom also

In view of the forgoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 17 and 19-27 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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